

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 526

BY REPRESENTATIVES JACOB LANDRY, BOYER, CARRIER, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DICKERSON, ECHOLS, EGAN, EMERSON, FARNUM, GADBERRY, HEBERT, HENRY, OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, VILLIO, AND WRIGHT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC PRINTING: Provides that a website established and maintained by the commissioner of administration shall be the official journal of the state and requires him to post certain information about boards and commissions on it

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 43:81 and R.S. 49:1301 through 1308 and to repeal R.S.  
3 42:19(A)(2)(c) and R.S. 43:81.1 through 90, relative to the official journal of the  
4 state; to provide that the official journal of the state shall be a website established  
5 and maintained by the commissioner of administration; to remove requirements  
6 designating a newspaper as the official journal of the state, including provisions  
7 relative to printing, contracts, and bidding; to provide for the publication of notices  
8 for a proposal to effect certain changes related to any retirement system for public  
9 employees; to apply requirements pertaining to a website containing information  
10 about certain boards and commissions to the website serving as the official journal  
11 of the state; to broaden the application of such requirements; to direct the Louisiana  
12 State Law Institute to redesignate certain provisions of law; and to provide for  
13 related matters.

14 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

15 Section 1. R.S. 43:81 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

16 §81. Official journal of state

17 A. ~~The printing of advertisements;~~ Advertisements, public notices,  
18 proclamations, and all public notices and advertising to be done by the legislature,

1 or the executive or other departments and institutions of the state government, shall  
2 be published ~~in a daily newspaper~~ on a website established and maintained by the  
3 commissioner of administration to be known and designated as the "Official Journal  
4 of the State", ~~which newspaper shall have and possess the following qualifications:~~  
5 State".

6 (1) ~~It shall possess the periodicals class mailing privilege.~~

7 (2) ~~It shall be published in and have a general circulation in Louisiana.~~

8 (3) ~~It shall have been so published at least once per week for a period of not~~  
9 ~~less than two years prior to the time that it is awarded the contract as the Official~~  
10 ~~Journal of the State, as provided in this Chapter.~~

11 ~~B.(1) For the purposes of Article III, Section 19 of the Constitution of~~  
12 ~~Louisiana, the Official Journal of the State shall be the Internet website or portal of~~  
13 ~~the Official Journal of the State.~~

14 ~~(2) All~~ (1) For the purposes of Article III, Section 19 of the Constitution of  
15 Louisiana, all laws and joint resolutions shall be accessible through the Official  
16 Journal of the State as defined in this Subsection Section prior to the sixtieth day  
17 after final adjournment of the session in which they were enacted and shall remain  
18 accessible for at least one year. Any act that contains an effective date prior to the  
19 sixtieth day after final adjournment shall be accessible prior to the effective date  
20 contained therein, if possible, or if not possible, as soon as possible after such  
21 effective date.

22 (2) For purposes of Article X, Section 29 of the Constitution of Louisiana,  
23 the commissioner of administration shall promulgate rules and fees in accordance  
24 with the Administrative Procedure Act to provide for the publication of notices on  
25 the Official Journal of the State by any person, without cost to the state, of a proposal  
26 to effect any change in existing laws or constitutional provisions relating to any  
27 retirement system for public employees.

28 Section 2. R.S. 49:1301 through 1308 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
29 follows:

1 §1301. Commissioner of administration; duties; sunset review of boards; and  
2 commissions; ~~and like entities~~

3 A. The commissioner of administration shall ~~establish and maintain a~~  
4 ~~website to~~ post the information designated in R.S. 49:1302; on the Official Journal  
5 of the State.

6 B.(1) If the commissioner of administration determines that a board; or  
7 commission; ~~or like entity covered by this Chapter~~ has failed to submit the  
8 information required pursuant to R.S. 49:1304 in the manner required by this  
9 Chapter, the commissioner shall send the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ a  
10 notice of noncompliance by certified mail, return receipt requested.

11 (2)(a)(i) If the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ fails to submit the  
12 information required pursuant to R.S. 49:1304 in the manner required by this Chapter  
13 within the response period, the commissioner shall send notice detailing the failure  
14 to comply to the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ and to the chief administrative  
15 officer of the department of which the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ is a part,  
16 if applicable.

17 (ii) The commissioner shall also send notice detailing the failure to comply  
18 to the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, the House Committee  
19 on House and Governmental Affairs, and the oversight committees for the board; or  
20 commission; ~~or like entity~~.

21 (b)(i) Each oversight committee that receives a notice pursuant to Item (a)(ii)  
22 of this Paragraph shall within sixty days of receiving the notice evaluate the board;  
23 or commission; ~~or like entity~~ and determine whether the board; or commission; ~~or~~  
24 ~~like entity~~ should be continued, modified, or terminated. The committee may direct  
25 the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ to begin to terminate its operations and to  
26 prepare for the orderly transfer or termination of its powers, duties, responsibilities,  
27 and functions, as appropriate.

28 (ii) No later than thirty days prior to the beginning of a regular session, each  
29 oversight committee that received a notice pursuant to Item (a)(ii) of this Paragraph

1 during the year prior to the year in which the session is to be held shall submit a  
 2 report to the legislature and the governor. The report shall contain a summary of all  
 3 action taken by the committee with respect to each such notice. The report shall also  
 4 contain the committee's determination as to whether each board; or commission; ~~or~~  
 5 ~~like entity~~ that was the subject of such a notice should be continued, modified, or  
 6 terminated and any legislation concerning the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~  
 7 that the committee will propose to the legislature.

8 (c)(i) For purposes of this Paragraph, "response period" means the period of  
 9 time beginning with the day the notice of noncompliance sent pursuant to Paragraph  
 10 (1) of this Subsection is received by the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ and  
 11 ending ninety days later.

12 (ii) For purposes of this Paragraph, "oversight committees" means the  
 13 standing committees of the two houses of the legislature which have usual  
 14 jurisdiction over the affairs of the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~.

15 C. The provisions of Subsection B of this Section shall not apply to any  
 16 board which is responsible for the administration of any statewide retirement fund  
 17 held in trust for the benefit of its participants and which retirement fund is not the  
 18 direct financial responsibility of the state.

19 §1302. ~~Website; content~~ Content

20 The ~~website established pursuant to R.S. 49:1301 shall contain~~ commissioner  
 21 of administration shall post on the Official Journal of the State the following  
 22 information for boards; and commissions; ~~and like entities covered by this Chapter:~~

23 A: (1) Each notice of a meeting required to be given pursuant to R.S. 42:19,  
 24 including all of the information required pursuant to R.S. 42:19 to be included in the  
 25 notice.

26 B: (2) Minutes of meetings required to be made available to the public  
 27 pursuant to R.S. 42:20, including any attachments.

28 (3) Audio and video recordings of meetings required to be made available  
 29 pursuant to R.S. 42:23.

1           ~~C. (4)~~ Statutory citations to provisions specifically creating the board; or  
2           commission; ~~or like entity~~; providing for its membership; and providing for its  
3           powers and authority.

4           ~~D. (5)~~ Contact information, including the name of one or more contacts at  
5           the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~; a mailing address; an e-mail address, if  
6           applicable; a website address, if applicable; and a phone number.

7           ~~E.(1) (6)(a)~~ Membership information, including the number, names,  
8           compensation, terms, length of service, and method of selection of members.

9           ~~(2) (b)~~ The information required by ~~this Subsection~~ Subparagraph (a) of this  
10          Paragraph shall include per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses, including  
11          the amount of such expenses paid per meeting and an aggregate amount of such  
12          expenses paid per fiscal year.

13          F. (7) Employee information, including the number, job description or title,  
14          and salaries of employees.

15          ~~G. (8)~~ Financial and budget information, including a detailed description of  
16          revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal  
17          years.

18          H. (9) The rules, regulations, and procedures of the board; or commission;  
19          ~~or like entity~~.

20          §1303. Submission of notices and minutes

21                 A. Each board; and commission; ~~or like entity covered by this Chapter~~ shall  
22                 submit each notice required to be included on the ~~website~~ Official Journal of the  
23                 State pursuant to R.S. 49:1302(A) to the commissioner of administration in a manner  
24                 which allows the commissioner enough time to post the notice ~~on the website~~ prior  
25                 to the deadline applicable to the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ for giving  
26                 notice pursuant to R.S. 42:19.

27                 B. Each board; and commission; ~~or like entity covered by this Chapter~~ shall  
28                 submit minutes required to be included on the ~~website~~ Official Journal of the State

1 pursuant to R.S. 49:1302(B) to the commissioner of administration within ten days  
2 after the minutes are adopted by the board; or commission; ~~or like entity.~~

3 C. All submissions of information required by this Section shall be made in  
4 an electronic format designated by the commissioner of administration.

5 §1304. Submission of other information

6 A. Each board; and commission; ~~or like entity covered by this Chapter~~ shall  
7 fully cooperate with the commissioner of administration in implementing and  
8 complying with the requirements of this Chapter.

9 B.(1) Except as provided in R.S. 49:1303, each board; and commission; ~~or~~  
10 ~~like entity covered by this Chapter~~ shall submit to the commissioner of  
11 administration all information required to be included on the ~~website~~ Official Journal  
12 of the State pursuant to R.S. 49:1302 by February first of each year. Except as  
13 provided in ~~R.S. 49:1302(E)(2) and (G)~~, R.S. 49:1302 relative to membership  
14 information and financial and budget information, the information shall be complete  
15 for the previous calendar year.

16 (2) The information required to be submitted pursuant to this Section shall  
17 be submitted by an appropriate officer of the board; or commission; ~~or like entity.~~  
18 The officer shall certify that the information submitted is true and correct to the best  
19 of his knowledge, information, and belief.

20 C. All submissions of information required by this Section shall be made in  
21 an electronic format designated by the commissioner of administration.

22 §1305. Applicability

23 A. ~~This Chapter shall apply to the following boards, commissions, and like~~  
24 ~~entities:~~ For purposes of this Chapter, "boards and commissions" shall have the  
25 same meaning as provided in R.S. 42:1124.2.1(D)(1)(a)(i) and shall include any  
26 committee, subcommittee, or panel of any board or commission.

27 (1) ~~Any board, commission, or like entity that is a licensing agency pursuant~~  
28 ~~to the Louisiana Licensing Agency Budget Act (R.S. 39:1331 et seq.):~~

29 (2) ~~The Louisiana Board of Cosmetology (R.S. 37:571).~~

1           ~~(3) Each board and commission whose members are required to file annual~~  
2           ~~financial disclosure statements pursuant to R.S. 42:1124.2.1.~~

3           ~~B. This Chapter shall also apply to any committee, subcommittee, or panel~~  
4           ~~of any board, commission, or like entity specified in Subsection A of this Section.~~

5           ~~§1305.1. Additional limited applicability of Chapter, notices of meetings only;~~  
6           ~~duties~~ Duties of the commissioner

7           ~~A. Each public body as defined in R.S. 42:13 not included in R.S. 49:1305~~  
8           ~~but which is required to give notice of its meetings in the manner required by R.S.~~  
9           ~~42:19(A) is subject to the provisions of this Section but not to other provisions of this~~  
10          ~~Chapter.~~

11          ~~B. Each public body subject to this Section shall submit each notice of a~~  
12          ~~meeting to the commissioner of administration in a manner which allows the~~  
13          ~~commissioner enough time to post the notice on the website established pursuant to~~  
14          ~~R.S. 49:1301 prior to the deadline applicable to the public body for giving notice~~  
15          ~~pursuant to R.S. 42:19(A).~~

16          ~~C. All submissions of notice required by this Section shall be made in an~~  
17          ~~electronic format designated by the commissioner of administration.~~

18          ~~D. A. The commissioner of administration shall include each notice received~~  
19          ~~pursuant to this Section on the website established pursuant to R.S. 49:1301 maintain~~  
20          ~~the information required by this Chapter in an easily searchable format and shall~~  
21          ~~provide for the capability for members of the public to request and receive electronic~~  
22          ~~notifications of meetings.~~

23          ~~E. B. The commissioner of administration shall establish a timeline and plan~~  
24          ~~for the implementation of the technological functions of the website established~~  
25          ~~pursuant to R.S. 49:1301 required by Subsection ~~D~~ A of this Section.~~

26          §1306. Rules and regulations

27          The commissioner of administration may adopt rules and regulations in the  
28          manner provided by the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions  
29          of this Chapter.

1 §1307. Legislative auditor

2 The legislative auditor shall work with the commissioner of administration  
3 to ensure that each board; and ~~commission, or like entity covered by this Chapter~~  
4 complies with the provisions of this Chapter.

5 §1308. Internet publication of certain information concerning permits and licenses;  
6 information required to be published; manner of publication

7 A.~~(1)~~ Each state entity ~~subject to the provisions of this Chapter~~ that issues  
8 a permit or license shall ~~prominently include on its internet website~~ submit the  
9 information required by Subsection B of this Section for inclusion in the Official  
10 Journal of the State.

11 ~~(2) If a state entity does not have an internet website, the department of~~  
12 ~~which the state entity is a part shall include the information required by Subsection~~  
13 ~~B of this Section for the state entity on the website of the department.~~

14 B. All of the following information shall be ~~included on the website:~~  
15 included:

16 (1) A brief description of each permit or license that the state entity issues.  
17 For each such permit or license, links to the following shall be included:

18 (a) The full text of the current application.

19 (b) A checklist of all information required to be submitted to complete the  
20 application process.

21 (c) The name and contact information of the person within the state entity  
22 responsible for responding to inquiries about the status of an application.

23 (d) The anticipated timeline for review of a completed application.

24 (2) A copy of the annual report submitted to the legislative oversight  
25 committees or subcommittees by the state entity pursuant to Subsection C of this  
26 Section.

27 C. Each state entity shall annually submit to its legislative oversight  
28 committee or subcommittee a report containing the number of permit or license

1 applications received, the number of permits or licenses issued, and timelines for  
2 approval of an application.

3 D. For the purposes of this Section, "state entity" means any department,  
4 office, division, commission, council, board, bureau, or other regulatory agency of  
5 state government.

6 Section 3. R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(c) and R.S. 43:81.1 through 90 are hereby repealed in  
7 their entirety.

8 Section 4.(A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to incorporate  
9 R.S. 49:1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1305.1, 1306, 1307, and 1308, all as amended and  
10 reenacted by this Act, into Chapter 2 of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950  
11 in lieu of certain provisions repealed by this Act, as follows:

12 (1) R.S. 49:1301 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:81.1.

13 (2) R.S. 49:1302 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:82.

14 (3) R.S. 49:1303 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:83.

15 (4) R.S. 49:1304 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:84.

16 (5) R.S. 49:1305 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:85.

17 (6) R.S. 49:1305.1 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:86.

18 (7) R.S. 49:1306 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:87.

19 (8) R.S. 49:1307 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:88.

20 (9) R.S. 49:1308 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:89.

21 (B) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to review all statutes which  
22 contain citations being redesignated by this Act in all statutory locations, including but not  
23 limited to the citations contained in the provisions of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised  
24 Statutes of 1950 in Paragraph (A) of this Section, and change all such citations to conform  
25 with such redesignations.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 526 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Jacob Landry

**Abstract:** Provides that a website established and maintained by the commissioner of administration, rather than a daily newspaper, shall be the official journal of the state and requires the commissioner to post certain information about boards and commissions on it.

Present law provides that the printing of advertisements, public notices, proclamations, and all public notices and advertising to be done by the legislature, or the executive or other departments and institutions of the state government, shall be published in a daily newspaper that is designated as the "Official Journal of the State". Provides for the cost of publication in such newspaper and for contracts and bids relative to printing in such newspaper. Proposed law removes all present law relative to this newspaper and instead provides that the state's official journal shall be a website established and maintained by the commissioner of administration.

Present constitution (Art. X, §29) provides that no proposal to effect any change in existing laws or constitutional provisions relating to any retirement system for public employees shall be introduced in the legislature unless notice of intention to introduce the proposal has been published, without cost to the state, in the official state journal on two separate days.

Proposed law provides that for purposes of present constitution, the commissioner of administration shall promulgate rules and fees to provide for the publication of retirement notices on the Official Journal of the State by any person, without cost to the state.

Present law requires the commissioner of administration to establish and maintain a website containing specific information that specific boards, commissions, and like entities (and committees, subcommittees, and panels thereof) are required to submit for posting on the website, such as meeting notices and minutes; contact information; employee information; laws pertaining to its creation, membership, and powers; and financial and budget information. Proposed law retains present law except for the following:

- (1) Applies all present law provisions pertaining to this website to the proposed law website serving as the state's official journal.
- (2) Changes application of present law to include each board, commission, and like entity created by law or executive order that is made a part of the executive branch of state government by law, or that is placed in an executive branch department or in the office of the governor or lieutenant governor by law or executive order, or that exercises any authority or performs any function of the executive branch of state government and committees, subcommittees, and panels thereof.
- (3) Adds audio and video recordings of meetings required to be made available pursuant to present law to the list of information required to be submitted and posted.

Proposed law directs the La. State Law Institute to redesignate certain present law provisions that are being amended and reenacted by proposed law and to make conforming revisions throughout present law and proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 43:81 and R.S. 49:1301-1308; Repeals R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(c) and R.S. 43:81.1-90)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require the commissioner of administration to promulgate rules and fees to provide for the publication of retirement notices on the official journal of the state, without cost to the state.
2. Make technical changes.